

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3, 7, 11-19, 21-27, 29-35, and 45-55 will be pending upon entry of the present amendment. Claims 17, 19, 21 and 24-26 are amended, and claim 20 is cancelled. Claim 55 is newly submitted herewith. No new matter has been added with the present amendment.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating the allowability of claims 1, 3-12, 27-30, 35, 45, and 48-54, and of the subject matter of claims 23-26. Accordingly, claim 17 has been amended to incorporate limitations of claims 19, 20, and 24. Applicant understands the claim to be allowable on the basis of this amendment.

Claim 17 has also been amended to delete the limitation that recites, in part, that "the post does not contact the edge surface [of the handle] until just prior to engaging the latching corner" The material removed from claim 17 comprises the subject matter of new claim 55. On the basis of the Examiner's comments in the recent Office Action, Applicant does not believe that this limitation is essential to the allowability of claim 17. However, if Examiner Landrum disagrees, Applicant respectfully requests that he contact the undersigned representative to discuss replacing the limitation by Examiner's amendment in order to place the application in condition for allowance.

In light of the above amendments and remarks, the rejections of the Office Action are moot, and will therefore not be discussed further. Applicant respectfully submits that all pending claims are now allowable, and therefore requests that the Examiner reconsider this application and timely allow all pending claims. Examiner Landrum is encouraged to contact Mr. Bennett by telephone at (206) 694-4848 to discuss the above and any other distinctions between the claims and the applied references, and to address any informalities that may remain unresolved.

The Director is authorized to charge any additional fees due by way of this Amendment, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-1090.

Respectfully submitted,
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